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(a) the apparent molecular weight of the conjugate, as determined by size exclusion chromatography, is at least about 500 kD, and (b) the average actual molecular weight of each nonproteinaceous molecule is at least 20 kD, and wherein the antibody fragment has an antigen binding site that binds human interleukin-8 (IL-8).

Please amend claim 27 as follows:

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27. (Twice amended) The conjugate of claim 1, wherein the antibody fragment is selected from the group consisting of Fab, Fab', and Fab'-SH modified by one PEG molecule having an average actual molecular weight of about 30 kD.

Remarks

In the Advisory Action mailed on November 20, 2002, claims 26 and 27 of the above-identified application were indicated as being objected to, but would presumably have been allowed, if rewritten in independent form, carrying all the limitations of the claims on which they depend. The foregoing amendments effectively limit the present application to the subject matter of previously pending dependent claims 26 and 27. Since claims 1 and 27, as presently amended, are believed to be allowable, the entry of the present amendment after final rejection is respectfully requested.

It is emphasized that the present amendment is made without prejudice, and without acquiescence in the rejection of the now cancelled claims. Applicants specifically reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the deleted claims in one or more continuing applications.

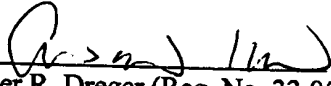
The present Amendment is accompanied by a Change of Address Letter. The Examiner is respectfully requested to direct all future communications to the address indicated, to the attention of the undersigned attorney.

Amendment After Final
Application No. 09/335,014

Attorney Docket No. GENENT.091NP

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the foregoing amendment. The attached sheet is labeled "Version with markings to show changes made."

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
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Date: February 7, 2002

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1 and 27 have been amended as follows:

1. (Three-times amended) A conjugate consisting essentially of an antibody fragment covalently modified by one or two nonproteinaceous polymer molecules at a free sulfhydryl group of a cysteine residue within the hinge region of the antibody fragment, wherein (a) the apparent molecular weight of the conjugate, as determined by size exclusion chromatography, is at least about 500 kD, and (b) the average actual molecular weight of each nonproteinaceous [polymer]molecule is at least 20 kD, and wherein the antibody fragment has an antigen binding site that binds human interleukin-8 (IL-8).

27. (Twice amended) The conjugate of claim [1]26, wherein the antibody fragment is selected from the group consisting of Fab, Fab', and Fab'-SH modified by one PEG molecule having an average actual molecular weight of about 30 kD.